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EXCLUDED FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE CONFERENCE

November 23, 1962

SUBJECT: Status of the Cuban Naval Quarantine

QUESTION: In the absence of some form of verification process, at what point is the naval quarantine to be withdrawn and what is to take its place?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

The government has not so stated but it is generally reported in the press that, even in the absence of an international verification of the withdrawal of offensive weapons from Cuba, the United States will lift the quarantine if it is satisfied that the Mi-26 aircraft now in Cuba are returned to the Soviet Union.

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

The quarantine was directly related to the introduction and presence in Cuba of offensive weapons and our attitude on its lifting will be determined by what is done with respect to those weapons.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE 5/9/68

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11/19/62  
11/20/62

CM - Mr. Crimmins

AM - Mr. Martin  
AM - Mr. Harvitch

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BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

November 20, 1962

SUBJECT: OAS Role in Cuban Situation

**QUESTION:** In view of the failure of the Soviets to comply fully as yet with their agreement to remove offensive weapons from Cuba, do you see any further action to be taken by the Organization of American States? Once the bombers have been removed, do you see any further role for the OAS?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

The Council of the Organization of American States meeting on October 23, resolved:

"1. To call for the immediate dismantling and withdrawal from Cuba of all missiles and other weapons with any offensive capability.

"2. To recommend that the member states, in accordance with Article 6 and 8 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, take all measures, individually and collectively including the use of armed force, which they may deem necessary to ensure that the Government of Cuba cannot continue to receive from the Sino-Soviet powers military material and related supplies which may threaten the peace and security of the Continent and to prevent the missiles in Cuba with offensive capability from even becoming an active threat to the peace and security of the Continent."

The President's address to the nation on October 22 referred to medium-range ballistic missiles, intermediate range ballistic missiles and jet bombers, capable of carrying nuclear weapons going into the urgent transformation of Cuba into an important strategic base.

Press reports have repeatedly described the dismantling and withdrawal of some Soviet missiles in Cuba, without on-site verification of this process. There have been no reports of the withdrawal of the bombers.

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

The Resolution which the OAS adopted on October 23 was specific on this point. The Council called for the "immediate dismantling and withdrawal from Cuba of all missiles and other weapons with any offensive capability."

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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The threat

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The threat posed by the presence of Soviet offensive weapons in Cuba was an explicit threat to the peace and security of all the Americas, not only the United States. The bombers were part of the threat. If the bombers are not removed from Cuba I am sure the OAS will need to take another look at that situation.

If and when the bombers are removed from Cuba, I am sure the OAS will continue to be concerned with verification of the removal of all offensive weapons from Cuba and with the need for safeguards against the reintroduction of missiles and bombers into Cuba. Also, we in the OAS will still have the responsibility to protect ourselves and each other from threats or acts of subversion and other dangers arising in Cuba to peace and security in this hemisphere.

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ABA/P:LEGGreenup:tmb 11/19/62 CMA - Mr. Crimmins  
RPA - Mr. Bowdler (substance)  
ABA - Mr. Martin